

Appl. No. 10/719,799
Atty. Docket No. 9438Q
Amdt. dated 9/8/05
Reply to Office Action of 7/5/05
Customer No. 27752

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraph on page 10, lines 1-10, with the following amended paragraph:

Withdrawal members [[3]]82 useful in the present invention may be made of any suitable material known in the prior art and include cotton and rayon. In addition, the withdrawal member [[3]]82 can take on other forms such as a ribbon, loop, tab, or the like. The withdrawal member [[3]]82 may be integral with the tampon pledge. The withdrawal member [[3]]82 or regions of the withdrawal member [[3]]82 may be treated to be non-absorbent, absorbent or hydrophilic. The withdrawal member [[3]]82 may be attached in any suitable manner known in the art including sewing, adhesive attachment, bonding, thermal bonding, or a combination thereof including the method disclosed in currently pending, commonly assigned, U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/610,075, filed June 30, 2003, entitled "Method and Apparatus for Cord Attachment" to Sargent, et al.

Please replace the paragraph on page 11, lines 15-22, with the following amended paragraph:

The tampon 20 of the present invention is made by providing the material that comprises the tampon pledge, withdrawal member [[3]]82, attaching or joining these components, folding the components and compressing. In making the tampon 20 of the present invention, the tampon pledge is provided. Next, the withdrawal member [[3]]82 is provided. The withdrawal member [[3]]82 may be attached in any suitable manner known in the art including sewing, adhesive attachment, bonding, thermal bonding, or a combination thereof, including the method disclosed in currently pending, commonly assigned, U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/610,075, filed June 30, 2003, entitled "Method and Apparatus for Cord Attachment" to Sargent, et al.

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 23-32 and ending at page 12, lines 4, with the following amended paragraph:

Next, the combination of the tampon pledge, secondary absorbent member [[30]] and withdrawal member [[3]]82 are folded or rolled. To form a tampon ready for use, the tampon pledge is typically compressed and heat conditioned in any suitable conventional manner including the method disclosed in currently pending, commonly assigned, U.S. Patent Application Serial No., filed May 12, 2003, entitled "A Process for Producing Stabilized Tampons," to Prosise, et al. Pressures and temperatures suitable for this purpose are well known in the art. Typically, the tampon pledge may be compressed in both the radial and axial direction using any means well known in the art. While a variety of techniques are known and acceptable for these purposes, a modified tampon compressor machine available from Hauni Machines, Richmond, VA, is suitable. Optionally, a finger indent 80 can be made using a compression rod. An example of a finger indent 80 can be found in U.S. Patent 6,283,952, filed May 5, 1997, entitled "Shaped Tampon" issued to Child, et al. The secondary absorbent member [[30]] may be attached to the tampon 20 before or after compression, and then no modification of the method of making a conventional compressed absorbent tampon is necessary.

Please replace the paragraph on page 9, lines 19-32, with the following amended paragraph:

The tampon of the present invention may comprise a secondary absorbent member. The secondary absorbent member may be comprised of material such as rayon, cotton, bicomponent fibers, polyethylene, polypropylene, polyester, other suitable natural or synthetic fibers known in the art, and mixtures thereof. The secondary absorbent member may be single ply or multiple plies. The secondary absorbent member may be absorbent and/or hydrophilic. The secondary absorbent member [[30]] may be attached to the second end [[38]] of the tampon pledge, such that after folding and compression, the secondary absorbent member [[30]] is attached to the withdrawal end 26 end of the tampon 20. The secondary absorbent member [[30]] may be arranged in a wide variety of shapes and configurations and may be generally cylindrical, spherical, semi-spherical,

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disc-like, planar, rectangular, "sheet-like," "skirt-like" in shape. The secondary absorbent member [[30]] may range in length from about 10 mm to about 40 mm from the withdrawal end 26 of the tampon 20. The secondary absorbent member [[30]] may be from about 20 mm to about 25 mm in length, from about 6 mm to about 40 mm in width, and from about 0.5 mm to about 5 mm in thickness.

Please replace the paragraph on page 10, lines 11-14, with the following amended paragraph:

The tampon 20 of the present invention may be inserted digitally. It may be desirable to provide a finger indent 80 at the withdrawal end 26 of the tampon 20 to aid in insertion, if the tampons 20 are to be digital tampons. An example of a finger indent 80 can be found in U.S. Patent 6,283,952, filed May 5, 1997, entitled "Shaped Tampon," issued to Child, et al.